NUMBER 26.

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LIKE APPLES OF GOLD

AN APPROPRIATE WORD MAY DECIDE ONE'S DESTINY.

Dr. Talmage Calls Attention to the Power of Little Things-The Door of Usefulness Is Open to All-Value of Sympathy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 .- In this dis- the adjective of fools!" course Dr. Talmage shows an open door for any one who desires to be useful and illustrates how a little thing may decide one's destiny. The text is Proverbs xxv. 11 (revised version), "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver."

"baskets." Here is a silver network yet the heroes were more than conquerbasket containing ripe and golden apples, pippins or rennets. You know how such apples glow through the openings of a basket of silver network. You have seen such a basket of fruit on many a table. It whets the appetite as well as regales the vision. Solomon was evidently fond of apples because he so often speaks of them. eye-well, the finest apples that ever While he writes in glowing terms of thumped on the ground in an autumnal pomegranates and figs and grapes and orchard and were placed in the most mandrakes, he seems to find solace as well as lusciousness in apples, calling out for a supply of them when he says in another place, "Comfort me with ap-Now you see the meaning of my text, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver."

You see, the wise man eulogizes just one word. Plenty of recognition has there been for great orations-Cicero's arraignment of Catiline, the philippies of Demosthenes, the five days' argument of Edmund Burke against Warren Hastings, Edward Irving's discourses on the Bible and libraries full of prolonged utterance-but my text extols the power of one word when it refers to "a word fitly spoken."

This may mean a single word or a small collection of words-something you can utter in one breath, something that you can compact into one sen-"A word fitly spoken"-an encouraging word, a kind word, a timely word, a sympathetic word, an appropriate word. I can pass right down the aisle of any church and find between pulpit and front door men whose temporal and eternal destinies have been decided by a word.

A Word of Sympathy.

I tell you what is a great crisis in every man's history. It is the time when he is entering an occupation or profession. He is opposed by men in middle life because they do not want any more rivals and by some of the aged because they fear being crowded off and their places being taken by younger men. Hear the often severe and unfair examinations of young lawyers by old lawyers, of young doctors by old doctors, of young ministers by old ministers. Hear some of the old merchants talk about the young merchants. Trowels and hammers and scales often are jealous of new trowels and new hammers and new scales. Then it is so difficult to get introduced. How long a time has many a physician had his sign out before he got a call for his services and the attorney before he got his family to a young physician who got his diploma only last spring and who may not know measles from scarlatina, or to risk the obtaining of a verdict for \$20,000 to an attorney who only three years ago read the first page of Blackstone?

How is the young merchant to compete with his next door bargain maker, who can afford to undersell some things because he can more than make it up by the profit on other things or has failed three times and had more money after each failure? How is that mechanic to make a livelihood when there are twice as many men in that trade as can in hard times find occupation? There are this very moment thousands of men who are just starting life for themselves, and they need encouragement-not long harangue, not quotation from profound book, not a page, not a paragraph, but a word, one

word, fitly spoken. Why does not that old merchant, who has been 40 years in business, go into that young merchant's store and say, He needs only that one "Courage!" word, although, of course, you will ilustrate it by telling your own experience and how long you waited for customers, and how the first two years you lost money, and how the next year, though you did better, illness in your household swamped the surplus with doctor's bills. Why does not that old lawyer go into that young lawyer's office just after he has broken down in making his first plea before a jury and say that word with only two syllables, 'Courage!" He needs only that one word, although, of course, you will Illustrate it by telling him how you broke down in one of your first cases and got laughed at by court and bar and jury, and how Disraell broke down at the start and how hundreds of the most successful lawyers at the start broke down. Why do not the successful men go right away and tell those who are starting what they went through and how their notes got protested and what unfortunate purchases they made and how they were swinbut kept right on until they reached the golden milestone? Even some who pretend to favor the new beginner and say they wish him well put obstacles in his way.

Lack of Courage. There are so many men who have all the elements of usefulness and power except one-courage. If you can only under God give them that, you give them everything. In illustrating that one word show them that every man that ever amounted to anything had Show him what ships Decatur had to fight, and what a mountain Hannibal had to climb, and what a lame fost Walter Scott had to walk with, and that the greatest poet who ever lived-Milton-was blind, that one of the grandest musicians of all the ages-Beethoven-was deaf and that Stewart, in some respects the greatest gan in his small store, dining on bread and cheese behind the counter in a snatched interregnum between customsweeping it out with his own broom make matters worse. From such a reers, he opening the store and closing it, and being his own errand boy. Show

and homes where as brave deeds have plunge into sin. The word of warning been done as those of Leonidas at must be charged and surcharged with Thermopylee, as that of Horatius at the bridge, as that of Colin Campbell at Balaklava. Tell them what Napoleon said to his staff officer when that officer declared a certain military attempt

to be impossible. "Impossible!" said

the great commander. "Impossible is

Show them also that what is true in worldly directions is more true in spiritual directions. Call the roll of prophets, apostles and martyrs and private Christians from the time the world began and ask them to mention one man man greatly good or useful who was not depreciated and finited and A filigree basket loaded with fruit is made a laughing stock. Racks and put before us in the text. What is or- prisons and whips and shipwrecks and dinarily translated "pictures" ought to axes of beheadment did their worst,

ors. With such things you will illus-

will go out from your presence to start

anew and right, challenging all earth

trate that word "courage," and they

and hell to the combat.

Help the Fallen. That word "courage," fitly spoken with compressed lips and stout grip of the hand and an intelligent flash of the beautiful basket of silver network before keen appetites could not be more

attractive. Furthermore, a comforting word fitly en is a beautiful thing. No one but God could give the inventory of sick beds and bereft homes and broken hearts. We ought not to let a day pass without a visit, or a letter, or a message, or a prayer consolatory. You could call five minutes on your way to mission of solace; you could brighten a sickroom with one chrysanthemum; you could put a postscript to a letter that would bring the joys of heaven to a soul; you could send your carriage and give an afternoon airing to an inadapted to some particular misfortune. Go home today and make out a list of things you can do that will show symthoughtfulness for the hardly bestead. How many dark places you might illumine! How many tears you ald stop or, if already started, you could wipe away! How much like Jesus Christ you might get to be! So sympathetic was he with beggary, so epilepsy, paralysis and ophthalmia that, whether he saw it by the roadside, or at the sea beach, or at the minlief. Cultivate genuine sympathy, jugal wretchedness. Christlike sympathy. You cannot successfully dramatize it. False sympa-

thy Alexander Pope sketches in two He's ber face her handkerchief she spread to muse the flood of tiers she did not shed. There are four or five words which fitly spoken might soothe and emancipate and rescue. Go to those from whose homes Christ has taken to himself a loved one and try the word "re- have been so long in active business union," not under wintry sky, but in life that I am clear past the latitude of Come and have your soul saved. Do everlasting springtide; not a land danger." There is a man in Sing Sing you not hear the very last proclamawhere they can be struck with disease, penitentiary who was considered the tion from the heavens which the seer but where the inhabitant never says, soul of honor until he was 50 years of of Patmos was commissioned to make: a case! Who wants to risk the life of "I am sick;" not a reunion that can be age and then committed a dishonesty "The spirit and the bride say come, and let followed by separation, but in a place that startled the entire commercial let him that heareth say com "from which they shall go no more out forever." For emancipation and sighing, immortal health. Reunion or if you like the word better anticipation. to speak of music and painting and of many gospel bells in the invitation There is nothing left for them in this world. Try them with heaven. With a chapter from the great book open | fine arts, the art of doing good, the art note of seraphic harp, one flash from ride. That word reunion or anticipation fitly spoken- Well, no fruit heaped be studied like sculpture, for it is sculp-

> pare that word of comfort fitly spoken to apples of gold in baskets of silver.

Sound the Alarm. So also is a word of warning. A ship may sail out of barbor when the sea has not so much as a ripple, but what a foolbardy ship company would they be that made no provision for high winds and wrathful seas. However smoothly the voyage of life may begin we will get rough weather before we harbor on the other side, and we need ever and anon to save some one uttering in most decided tones the word tions to make this life everything and to forget that an inch of ground is larger as compared with our eternal existence. There are all the temptations of the wine cup and the demijohn as this in baskets of silver." or any other century has heard of. There are all the temptations of pride and avarice and base indulgence and drawing power of that word, so small ungovernable temper. There is no and yet so tremendous, "Come?" It is the stool of repentance has proved itword we all need oftener to hear than a short word, but its influence is as

the word "beware." The trouble is that the warning word friends to be overcome in a fight with some evil habit before we sound an alarm. After a man is all on fire with evil habit your word of warning will of dissipation and dissoluteness. It is have no more effect than would an address to a house on fire asking it to stop burning, no more use than a steam tug going out to help a ship after it has sunk to the bottom of the ocean. What use in word of warning to that inebriate whose wife was dying from wounds inflicted by his own hand. As he held the hand of his dying wife he

made this vow, "Mary, I will never take another glass of strong drink until I take it from this hand which I now hold." In an awful way he kept the vow, for when the wife was in her coffin he filled a glass with brandy, put the glass into the dead hand, then took the glass out of her hand and drank the liquid. Too late does any warning come to such a one. But many a man now high up in usefulness and honor was stopped on the wrong road by a kindly hand put upon the shoulder and a word fitly spoken. Ah, yes, fitly spoken-that is, at the right time, with the merchant that America ever saw, bephasis. A dictatorial way, a condemnatory manner, a fault finding tone of voice, a manner which seems to say, "Look at me and do as I do," will only

them that within ten minutes' walk a drink sooner than he would have there are stores, shops and factories taken it and the dissolute man a worse taken it and the dissolute man a worse it was through illness, and you took an intoxicant first as a medicine," or, in is a gospel of "come." "You are a hall fellow well met, and you took the liquid in sociability," or: mercial house that expected you to treat customers. I understand it all. If of soldiers was ever halted. Swing the of sin and death. red lantern across that track and stop

that train before it reaches the chasm!

struggling with a tide of evil inherited 200 tons. On the 19th of June, 1706, in from father and grandfather and great- a great fire it fell and broke. It broke grandfather. The present temptation at the part which was weakened by the may be the accumulated force of gen- jewels which the ladies of Moscow erations and centuries. "No," you say; threw into the liquid metal at the cast-"his father was a good man. I knew ing. The voices of that bell are forevhim." But did you know his grandfa- er hushed. It will never ring again elther? Evil habit is apt to skip one ther at wedding or obsequy or corona generation, a fact recognized in the tion. What majestic and overpowering Ten Commandments, which speak of silence! Enthroned and everlasting the third and fourth generation, but quietude! One walks around it full of say nothing of the second generation. Or the man astray may have an unhappy home, and that is enough to representing czar and empress and wreck any one. We often speak of Christ and Mary and the evangelists. men who destroy their homes, but do But as I stood before it last summer I the factory; you could leave a half not say anything about the fact that bethought myself of a greater bell and hour earlier in the afternoon and fill a there are thousands of wives in Ameri- one still ringing. It is the gospel bell trumpet, explains the incident depictca who by petulance and fretting and ages ago hung on the beam of the ed. A skilled planist presides at the inconsideration and lack of economy cross. It has vaster circumference and grand plane, a numerous stringed orand all manner of disagreeableness with mightler tongue sounds across chestra ranged before the altar perdrive their husbands into dissipation. seas and continents and awakens ech- forms pieces of music that are known The reason that thousands of men oes amid Alpine and Himalayan and spend their evenings in clubhouses and Sierra Nevadan ranges. The jewels of valid on a neighboring street; you could taverns is because they cannot stand it affection thrown into it at its casting bie pile, and the Rev. W. Carille or a book with some chapters most at home. I know men who are 30 year by ransomed souls of earth and heaven martyrs in the fact that they are aw- have not weakened it, but made it tion some plain home truths, no subtle, fully married. That marriage was not made in heaven. Without asking di- lsts and apostles rang it, and martyrs but straight rhetorical blows from the vine guidance they entered into an alli- lifted their hands through the flames shoulder. ance which ought never to have been to give it another sounding. It will made. That is what is the matter with ring on until all nations bear it and nessed at St. Mary-at-Hill during the many men you and I know. They may accept its invitation, "Come, come!" It dinner hour on any week day except be very brave and heroic and say will not fall, as did that of Moscow. nothing about it, but all the neighbors know. Now, if the man going wrong helpful was he for the fallen and so has such domestic misfortune be very the last day blaze into the heavens stirred was be at the sight of dropsy, lenient and excusatory in your word of amid the crash of mountains and the bering once barely a dozen, is now over warning. The difference between you groan of dying seas, its clear, resound- 600. At midday the workmen in their and him may be that you would have gone down faster than he is going eral baths of Bethesda, he offered re- down if you had the same kind of con-

ciful in your word of warning, for the | yesterday formed and tomorrow turned | acter. Mr. Carlile is satisfied with the Besides that, you had better be merday may come when you may need some one to be lenient and excusatory that unless you have sympathetic treatment you may go under. says some one; "I am too old for that" and have your wounds healed. Come How old are you? "Oh," you say, "I and have your blindness illumined. world.

Divine Architecture.

sculpture and architecture, but they this moment sounding from the heavforget to mention the finest of all the one of the 12 gates. Give them one of helping others, the art of saving men. An art to be studied as you the sea of glass, one clatter of the study music, for it is music in the fact hoofs of the horses on which victors that it drives out moral discord and substitutes eternal barmony. An art to up in silver baskets could equal it. Of ture in the fact that it builds a man not the 2,000 kinds of apples that have in cold statue, but in immortal shape blessed the world not one is so mellow that will last long after all pentellean marble has crumbled An art to be or so rich or so aromatic, but we take the suggestion of the text and comstudied as you study architecture, for it is architecture in the fact that it builds for him a house of God, eternal in the heavens. But an art that we cannot fully learn unless God belps us. Ourselves saved by grace divine, we can go forth to save others, and with a tenderness and compassion and a pity that we could not otherwise exercise we can pronounce the warning word with magnificent result. The Lord said to the prophet Amos, "Amos, what seest thou?" and he answered, "A basket of summer fruit." But I do not think Amos saw in that basket of summer "Beware!" There are all the tempta- fruit anything more inviting and insclous than many a saved man has seen in the warning word of some hearty. common sense Christian adviser, for word fitly spoken is "like apples of gold

long as eternity; not a sesquipedalian word spreading its energy over many is apt to come too late. We allow our syllables, but monosyllabic. Whether calling in wrong direction or right direction many have found it irresistible. That one word has filled all the places curse the earth. Inquire at the door of prisons what brought the offender there and at the door of almshouses what brought the pauper there and at the door of the lost world what was the know, Miss de Muir, that you once cause of the incarceration, and if the inmates speak the truth they will say, "The word 'come' brought us here. Come and drink. Come and gamble Come and sin. Come and die. Pronounce that word with one kind of inflection, and you can hear in it the tolling of all the bells of confiagration and

The chief baker in prison in Pharaoh's time saw in dream something quite different from apples of gold in baskets of silver, for he said to Joseph "I was also in a dream, and, behold, I bad three white baskets on my head, the mother's favorite. It is pleasant all manner of baked meats for Phaproval the inchriste will so out to take and foretell doom and death.

But, oh, the power of that word "come" when aright uttered! We do A London Clergyman Who Has Hit well when we send young men into sympathy. You will practically say to schools and colleges and theological the man, "I suppose you got into your seminaries and by nine years of inpresent habit through overwork, and struction and drill hope to prepare you took stimulus to keep up and do them to sound aright that sweet and is known as St. Mary-at-Hill. the work you must do," or, "I suppose enrapturing and heaven descended speak all the churches. That word is ries old-a modern, not to say sensa-"You were the representative of a com- and burnished coronets for kings and the hope of solving the problem as to queens. That word is to sound so clear-ly and impressively and divinely that ship. This hope has certainly been I had been in the same circumstances, the day is advancing when all nations gratified, for the edifice at every serv-I would probably be fast in the same shall respond: "We come!" By some such alleviating And while the upper steeps toward introduction prepare the way for a "be- God and heaven will be througed with emptiness which characterized it forware!" that will halt your friend on the redeemed souls ascending there will wrong road as suddenly as any platoon | not be one solitary traveler on the road

In the Kremlin at Moscow is what is

ruined bell, and it has sung no sound | There must be no impatience in the for near 200 years. It is 67 feet in cirwarning we give others. We must real- cumference, and in height it is more than ten times the height of the averize that but for the kindness of God to us we would have been in the same age men, and it took a score of men to rapids. That man going wrong may be swing its brazen tongue. It weighs wonder and historical reminiscence and solemnity. On it are figures in relief can rock it down. When the fires of bringing the people to church. He has "Come, come!"

vitation to all to whom these words ad of you a temptation so mighty ever sea, in high places or low. I ring glar's picklock and whisky bottle that tunless you have sympathetic treatout the word, "Come, come!" Come were recently left in the pews.—Lonand have your sorrows solaced. Come Come and have your fatigues rested. him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life In mentioning fine arts people are apt freely?" Aye, hear you not the chime ens, "Come out from among them and be ye separate," saith the Lord, "and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters," saith the Lord Almighty. Come and alt down at the King's banquet. Was there ever such a brilliant feast or so many royal guests? Here are the challees filled not from the brewerles of earth, but with the "new wine of the kingdom." And here are the ripe, purple clusters of Eschol, and pass them around to all the banqueters -"apples of gold in baskets of silver." [Coryright, 1900, Louis Klopsch, N. Y.]

The Stool of Repentance "Any infraction of the rules at Girard college," says the Philadelphia Record, "is punished with 20 minutes on a stool of repentance. When the institution first adopted this scheme of punishment, one stool was enough. As the college expanded the stools multiplied, and today no less than 64 four legged, painless instruments of discipline are in more or less constant use in a room devoted exclusively to the punishment of those who have trans gressed the rules. There is absolutely nothing to the disciplining except the order to sit on a comfortable stool for 20 minutes and 'think it over.' Any of and beautiful. Who can describe the the lads would sooner take a sound rich mine owner of Colorado. To him thrashing and have done with it, but Mr. Bitler unfolded his plan, which met self an ideal punishment, and it has come to stay at Girard college."

Could Take a Hint.

It was late, but he still lingered. "I have been trying to think," the young woman remarked after a pause Chicago to be called the Good Will temin the conversation, "of the motto of

the state of Maine."
"'Dirigo,'" said young Spoonamore reaching for his hat, "and I will go. but it will always be a consolation," he added, with a profound bow, "to called me 'dearie!' "-Chicago Tribune.

Exercise Enough.

"I thought your wife was going to join our physical culture class this year, Mr. Smythers?" "She did intend to, but we've got

girl who has been over from Sweden only six weeks, and my wife has to talk to her by making signs."

The Mother's Favorite.

and in the uppermost basket there was and safe for children to take and always cures. It is intended especially rach, and the birds did cat them out of the baskets upon my head." Joseph interpreted the dream and said it meant that the chief baker should be beheaded, and the birds would eat his fiesh. So many a man has in his own bad habits omens of evil that peck at him and foretell doom and death.

Other injurious drug and may be discontinuous or raince, where the parties of the noble ladies brought up within their walls.

AUTOMATIC SERMONS.

Almost within shadow of the Monument stands the most extraordinary church in London. This sacred edifice

Into an interior which carries on word "come." The gospel we believe back to long dead ages-the oaken fa-That word cade and pulpit are nearly five centunow building thrones for conquerors tional, note has been interpolated in ice time resounds to the tramp of many feet instead of being left to desolating merly.

From under that ancient pulpit the maw of a huge brass instrument projects itself, a bass drum is seen reared called the "King of Bells," but it is a against the legs of a grand plano, a triunial magic lantern is described in the organ loft and before it stretches a huge white sheet supported by the fluted columns of the church.

The brass instrument under the pulpit is called a "monsterphone." It performs pieces of music for the entertain ment of the congregation-not necessa rily sacred music-and it varies its programme with an occasional address not exclusively on spiritual themes. For the special edification of a Daily Mail representative it gave a capital rendering of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," followed by an address by the Archbishop of Canterbury couched in simple, telling language, such as his intended hearers would understand.

The magic lantern in the organ loft throws pictures on the screen stretched across the center aisle, and when service is being held "Captain" R. Coleman, sometimes with the aid of a speaking in every household, the bass drum booms and echoes through the venera some other preacher tells his congregastronger and more glorious. Evangel- theological hair splitting, no didactics

Such is the scene that may be wit Saturday and every Sunday evening No storm can stop it. No earthquake It is the Rev. Mr. Carlile's method of succeeded, for the congregation, numing voice will be heard calling to the toil stained clothes spend part of their last inhabitant of the burning planet, dinner interval listening to the "monsterphone" or looking at the magic lan-But it requires now no great strength | tern pictures, and the Sunday congreto ring that bell. With this weak hand, gation is just as homespun in its charto dust, I lay hold that gospel bell in in- results of his novel effort. He is convinced he is "getting at" the right sort shall come on whatever land or what of people and proudly refers to the bur don Mall.

The World's Largest Grapevine The world's largest grapevine is located in the Carpenteria valley, in Santa Barbara county. It had its beginnings in 1842, when a Spanish woman, one Joaquina Lugodi Ayala by name, planted a cutting of the old Mission variety of grape. From the start it gave promise of an unusual future, and to day, after half a century of growth, it stands the monarch of the grapevines of the world. The trunk measures at the base 8 feet 4 inches in circumference. At a height of six feet from the ground it divides into four main branches, the largest of which has a circumference of 3 feet 5 inches. It covers an area of 100 by 134 feet. Sixty-five stout posts with crossbeams sup-

port its enormous spread of branches. The present area, large as it may seem, does not fully represent the prodigious growth of the vine, for its owner, Mr. Jacob Wilson, unwilling to concede it more room, cuts it back heavily each year. In 1895 a record was kept of the amount of grapes yielded by "la vina grande" for that season, and the astonishing total of ten tons was recorded. During the World's fair and again at the time of the California Midwinter exposition large sums were offered Mr. Wilson for the removal of the vine for exhibition purposes, but he wisely declined both.-California Cor. Rural New Yorker.

The Good Will Temple.

About ten years ago the Rev. J. S. Bitler, a Methodist minister, saw in a vision a mighty church built for the masses in a large city. Since that time It has been the object of his life to build that temple. He discovered no means, however, with which to build the structure until a year ago last August, when he met A. J. Wharton, a with such favor in the eyes of the mine owner that he decided to give his aid to the work. He presented to Bitler 100 acres of mining land, and a telegram the other day announced a rich strike on the land worth \$1,000,000. Mr. Bitler says that he will build a church in

An Excellent Blunder.

Blunders are always entertaining to people who are better informed than those who make them. A choice selec tion brightens the pages of the report of the board of education for 1399-1900. It would be difficult to beat the following passage from an answer as to the carbon dioxide present in the air: "If you seal up in a tube a plant in one bulb and an animal in the other, the plant will produce the exygen necessary for the animal and the animal the CO2 necessary for the plant, and they will go on living together for hundreds

of years."-London Telegraph. marning Mr. W.

Wimble-A judge in one of the courts has decided that a man has a right to remain out all night if he wants to Mrs. W .- Don't let that worry you, Wimble. That judge hasn't jurisdiction in this bousehold.-Boston Transcript. The art of manicure is many centu

ries old, having had its birth in the dim old convents of France, where the pa-